
A D V I C E

TO THE

GENTLEMEN OF THE LAW, &c.



TO THE

COMMISSIONERS OF THE LANDS

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A D V I C E

TO A CERTAIN

LORD HIGH CHANCELLOR,

Twelve Judges, 600 Barristers, 700 English and 800 Irish
Students of the Law, and 30,000 Attornies !

IN WHICH ALL THE

MODERN RULES OF PRACTICE

ARE LAID DOWN AND EXEMPLIFIED :

*And, among other Things, some Anecdotes are related, and
honourable Mention made, of the following*

ILLUSTRIOUS CHARACTERS, viz.

The Right Hon. Edward Lord Thurlow.	Mr. Justice Ashurst.
Mr. Holloway, Attorney.	Mr. Justice Grose.
The Right Hon. William Pitt.	The Hon. Thomas Erskine.
George Barrington.	The Respectable Messrs. Prid- dle and Sambich, Attornies.
Lloyd Lord Kenyon.	Counsellor Garrow, &c. &c.

STRONGLY RECOMMENDED TO ALL GENTLEMEN WHO
WISH TO KNOW THE LAW; AND TO ALL
CLIENTS WHOSE PERSONS OR FORTUNES
ARE IN THE POWER OF LAWYERS.

D U B L I N :

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1792



ADVERTISEMENT.

NOtwithstanding the voluminous treatises which have been published on legal subjects, there still remained certain points untouched by any writer's pen ; and though the uniform practice of many Members of the

Profession has established a system in their dealings with the rest of the community, yet that system was not delineated on paper 'till the author of the following pages undertook the task. His intention is to lead the young Tyro of the law to view its inmost recesses; and to reveal to him secrets which he can not find in all the writings of Lyttleton or Coke. He also wishes to remove the groundless prejudice of multitudes against the

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the profession at large, and particularly that respectable class of it denominated Attornies. But should he fail in this laudable endeavour, he does not think his attempt would even then be entirely useless, or unworthy of praise. He presumes that as much advantage will attend his labours, as those of an ancient Gaul who should have collected the unwritten, tho' inestimable science of the Druids, or as those of Xenophon or Pythagoras,

ras, who have transmitted to posterity the maxims of great philosophers. It is hardly necessary to say that this may be as easily effected by concise rules as long descriptions ; in the same manner that one of the stoics instructed his disciples in the tenets and opinions of his sect by short sentences of practical morality.



ADVICE

A D V I C E

TO THE

GENTLEMEN of the LAW.

C H A P. I.

To the Judges.

PREVIOUS to your elevation to a seat on the bench, I suppose you to have attained such a degree of mental pliability, that you will not afterwards be much fatigued with qualms of conscience, nor adhere to unfashionable or inconvenient principles of rectitude. It is true, that a small number of you, very small indeed, may have acquired your dignity by abilities alone. But even of these few, most have been ever guided more by their own immediate interests than by any attachment to law or equity. Their opinions were as willows, bending to

the most gentle efforts of power ; or weather-cocks, blown about by every breeze of fortune. And please to observe, that although your numerous predecessors of this description, might not have enjoyed the pure tranquillity of honest minds, or anticipated the pleasures of immortal fame, which I am sure you consider as a mere puerility ; yet they possessed wealth and power, and enjoyed every luxury of life.

Not doubting but that you are very desirous of these gratifications, I shall first advise you, whether you have a seat in parliament or not, to coincide always with the ministerial party : for, though your places are during life, you may still receive an elevation, or have some pretty sinecure bestowed upon you. In all questions relative to the constitution, be on the monarchical side, for the people have neither places nor pensions to give. Let no patriotic sentiment escape your lips, unless the better to insinuate your arguments in favour of despotism. Liberty you may always term anarchy and confusion—Tyranny a species of government that produces good order at home, and ensures respectability among foreign nations. The antiquity of the English constitution will always supply you with an argument for every abuse of long standing, which disinterested legislators may be desirous to remove. When you find your patron and master willing to depart from his usual



usual sentiments, be particular to oppose him strenuously. Thus you give him popularity, without diminishing his influence. He expects opposition from his friends, and he will approve of it the more, if it comes unsolicited.

In no official capacity can you serve your party and your interest better, than when you are to try persons indicted for public libels. First address the jury with some fine popular sentiments concerning the liberty of the press. Then you may proceed with half a dozen 'buts,' and state the danger of licentious publications; telling them, that upon the whole the defendant must be convicted. After you have thus got him within your clutches, I need not advise you how to treat him. But I must observe, that you ought not too strictly to follow the conduct of your great archetype, Jeffries, in punishing severely those who throw themselves on your mercy by pleading guilty. You ought to encourage this practice, as it may often give opportunities to inflict rough chastisement for offences that a jury would scout with contempt. With respect to your oratory in general, you should rather attend to good models than didactic rules. Let the elegant and flowing language of Kenyon, the volubility of Ashurst, and the graceful action of Grose be ever the objects of your imitation; and study also, like the first of those

learned personages, to command your temper, and observe those minute decorums so becoming in every minister of justice.

During the term, when intricate causes are pleaded before you, it is always easy to pick up as many arguments from the counsel as will serve you to make a moderate speech. If you are not first in precedence on the bench, then you may find something to observe upon what has fallen from my Lord, or my brothers, already: as ‘ ‘Pon my word, I’m entirely of the same opinion with my Lord Chief Justice.’ If you think this sentence not sufficient, you may add, ‘ And indeed the case has been so thoroughly argued and so fully investigated on all sides, that it is impossible for me to add any thing to what has already been said.’ (This will serve as a common exordium to all your speeches, with a very little alteration.) Then assume a grave visage, under which you may conceal your deficiencies from the multitude. As often as possible exert your importance. Be angry with the witnesses, attornies, and counsel, for this shows your authority. How much more would the gentle, pious and modest Thurlow be respected on his tribunal, if, instead of treating his inferiors with that mild condescension for which he has ever been remarked, he should wear the stern aspect and wrinkled brow of an haughty judge. Turn out all those who intercept
or

or make difficult the passage to your seat. Read the news-papers when some material evidence is offered to the court ; for this will either show your great abilities in doing two things at once ; or it will surprize the mob at your indifference to things of such magnitude in their apprehensions.

It may now and then be adviseable to compliment some refractory barristers, as they will probably give you some adulation in return. By this commerce you will be respectfully treated by men whose talents enable them to detect your folly.

If you sit in the King's Bench, and the etiquette of the court requires you to give judgment on offenders ; that is, if you are the senior of the puisne judges, you ought to have by you some precedents of introductory speeches, to suit every occasion. For example ; you are frequently called upon to punish assaults upon officers of the revenue—now you might use this pathetic address to the prisoner : “ A. B. you are convicted of a very atrocious crime, namely, that is to say, of an obstruction to one of his majesty's servants in the collection of the public revenue. Now, Sir, don't you know, that if the king gets no money, he can maintain no army, fleet, or any thing else : and so we should all be immediately ruined. You tell us you have a wife and a very large family of children—

(as

(as the case may be)—What are your wife and your children to us? Why did you not think of them before you committed this heinous offence? The innocent must suffer with the guilty," &c. &c.

If you do not wish to be thought to read your address, you may hem! and hah! as when you speak extempore, and so deceive your auditors. With respect to your conduct at chambers, I advise you never to be too particular as to the propriety of your suitor's application, for this would be made known, and you would lose in consequence much emolument. If an attorney comes to be admitted, don't ask many of the questions directed by the statutes, as in all probability he could not answer them; whereby your fee would be lost. It is hardly necessary to tell you, that on circuit you must look vastly grave and consequential. Take care that your wig be well dressed: it will astonish the rustics, and give them a high veneration for the block it covers.

CHAPTER II.

To the Gentlemen of the Bar.

THE profession of the bar is now become the surest road to riches and honour. It qualifies admirably for any employment in which chicanery may be advantageous ; and I think, we need seek no other reason for that great superiority in cunning and artifice which our present premier Mr. Pitt, possesses over his renowned father, than that the former was bred to the law, the latter was not.---Come, then, young council, attend to my instructions, and I will lead you to that pinnacle to which you desire to arrive,

After you have provided yourself with a set of chambers, you should procure some old parchments, draughts of conveyances and pleadings, and place them in different parts of your study, so that when a client comes, he will think you are a man of great business.

If,

If, as I suppose, your pockets should not be well lined with cash, you will find it difficult to procure a library, horses, &c.

However, do not despair:---Go to a livery stable---bargain for one of the best horses you see, and take him upon trial. Then, after having kept him two or three months, return him to his owner for pretended faults.

Hire a servant, and when his wages become due, miss several articles of value: hint shrewd suspicions that you know the thief, and mean to prosecute him severely. If your valet possesses fortitude enough to stand his ground notwithstanding all these threats, you must fairly turn him out. It is ten to one, that his poverty precludes him from enforcing by law the payment of his wages. Besides, he would be afraid to meddle with a gentleman of your litigious complexion.---Thus you go your circuit with great frugality.

If, as is usual, you get no business during the first years of your legal apprenticeship, then you may sit down, and write books.

Don't tell me you are too great a dunce for this. Take Baron Comyns's Digest, Viner's Abridgement, Blackstone's Commentaries, Justinian's Institutes in English, and cut out whole leaves of them, if you are too lazy to make a nice selection.

Bind up these, and give your book a name.---Send it to Mr. Clarke, who for
his

his own sake will praise it; and as few read more concerning legal productions than their title pages, you may soon be celebrated.

But don't make any attempts to polish the style of your original, for fear you should, like many modern compilers, obscure with your own trash, the dull, though precise meaning of your authors.

When you give an opinion, always insert so many hypothetical conjunctions, that be the case as it may, you cannot be wrong.

Even when you do not entertain a shadow of doubt, yet be wavering to your client. This serves the interests of your fraternity; for few men will embark in litigation without receiving further advice: and other learned friends will return you similar favours.—For instance:—

Suppose you are asked, whether it would be proper to leave an estate to a man born in France, of foreign parents; give your opinion as follows: “I am, indeed, extremely *apprehensive* that in this case the gentleman might be *deemed* an alien by a court of law; and as it *has been held*, in some books, that an alien cannot take an estate in lands to his own use; upon the most *mature deliberation*, I incline to be of opinion, that this estate should not be devised to the Frenchman.” If you are employed to draw pleadings, whenever you find yourself puzzled as to a particular
C form,

form, write the part so ill, that it will be impossible to read it, or that it may be construed two or three different ways: when your declaration or plea is demurred to, you may then lay all the blame on the attorney.

Get by rote the indexes of some reporters, and when you are consulted by clients, quote cases in abundance. Not having skill to detect your ostentatious ignorance, they will think you an oracle of law.

When you go to Westminster-Hall, be early enough to occupy a seat (I suppose you still a young counsel). Always have a bag with you, though it be filled with old news-papers: and, when difficult points are argued, appear to take notes with great earnestness, though you don't understand a word of the proceedings.

This will give the attornies and your brethren of the long robe an opinion of your knowledge and industry.

If you are ever employed, endeavour to say a great deal, no matter whether sense or nonsense, so as your words sound tolerably. The generality of people have no other measure of a barrister's abilities and diligence than the duration of his speech.

I have frequently heard it answered to this question, "How did your counsel behave?"—"Admirably! he spoke *an hour*."—Take care then that you learn the method of eking out an address to the jury:

There

There are gentlemen of the profession, who will serve you for excellent models in speaking without ideas, and *strenuously contending* without a single argument.

Suppose, for instance, some objection should be made to your opinions by a judge; amuse the court in this manner—“Really, my Lord, after what your Lordship has thought proper to suggest, it is not without extreme diffidence and the utmost timidity, that I shall humbly beg leave, with great submission to the court, to observe, that it does appear to me, in whatever light I view your Lordship’s observation, which, to be sure, carries along with it great appearance of solid argument, and to which, as to every other remark of your Lordship, I bow with the greatest possible deference, as, indeed, it is my inclination as well as my duty to do,” &c.—(go on to state your answer, if you have any.)

When you are at a loss for a real argument, use the following one; it will suit most cases :---“I say, *my Lud*, if any gentleman present will stand up and assert that a greater piece of iniquity;---if any gentleman will assert, that more enormous crime;---if any gentleman will say, that more notorious injustice ever came before any tribunal, than what I have already made known;---I say, *my Lud*, if any gentleman will say so, I freely give up my

client's cause."—Then put on a clouded aspect, look round, and shake your wig. As decorum forbids any one to take you up on your own conditions, you may enjoy a very easy triumph.

By all means endeavour to be master of the declamatory style: with the assistance of it, you may speak an hour on the most trifling subject—you may frighten the bench, and astonish the bar.—Clients will think you possess real legitimate eloquence, when you can claim nothing more than a spurious corruption.

Acquire, if you can, a little theatrical gesture. It makes you seem vastly warm in your cause.—Learn likewise to faint at pleasure. If you are expert, you will gain great credit by a well-timed swoon. The eloquent and celebrated Erskine raised himself first into notice by one of them.

There are many pretty little artifices to be made use of when you are at a loss for words. Hem! and blow your nose as if you had a great cold. Introduce the words, *My lud*, or gentlemen of the jury, at the beginning of every period, and, upon a pinch, two or three times in the middle. Play with the string of your papers.—Turn over your brief as if you were looking for abstracts of cases; and in the mean time you may recollect something to say.

If your oratorical powers can find no exercise in the courts, you may frequent the societies

societies of students established for the purpose of debate.—The ignorance of your auditors will make them believe you are a person of wonderful capacity, and that nothing but the envy and stupidity of the world prevents you from rising at the bar.

You may also exercise yourself at Constitution and Revolution Clubs—Among the drones who form them you will be remarkable.

Now and then, if you would raise your reputation, when you have nothing else to do, you may try your hand at a pamphlet, and, unless you are a paragon of dullness, you will excell some barristers who have lately answered a well-known publication.—But, reader, do not imagine I now offer the most oblique insinuation against the elegant and learned Rous, or that I mean in the slightest degree to depreciate his immortal writings.

If you are retained to plead in any of the inferior courts, as on a writ of enquiry, or at the Old Bailey, you may appear very important by brow-beating the respective judges. Modest Garrow! attend to these hints:—Endeavour to shake off some of those amiable and gentle manners which embarrass you in your business, and render you inferior to assuming men, who have been more accustomed to low life than you, but whose real abilities are far beneath yours.

Learn the art of frightening witnesses, and of appearing a sharp examiner;---repeat your question two or three times in a shrill voice; then repeat the answer, and stare the evidence out of countenance.

In time you will, no doubt, become ambitious of a seat in parliament.---This you may obtain on easy terms, by flattery and servile submission to the patron of some borough. Promise sincerely to observe his directions, and give your vote as he wishes. But when you are elected, then begin to look about you:—Consider whether there is a probability of your being able to purchase at the next dissolution without your patron's assistance.—If you think you can, then shake him off, carry your vote to market, and boldly trade upon your own bottom. There are other modes of obtaining preferment:—Take the following anecdote as an example of one of them. A gentleman of the long robe possessed a beautiful wife, who was extremely admired by a dignitary of the law. The barrister suspected the improper attachment; and being desirous of ascertaining the truth of the matter, and of taking the noble Lord in the fact—he feigned, as usual upon those occasions, a journey, but thought proper to return in a very short time after his departure.—The amorous judge was found in a situation which modesty forbids me to describe.

scribe. When he was sharply taxed by the husband, he turned round, gave him a kick on the rump, and cried, "G—d damn you, hold your tongue, and you shall be on the Bench next week." The prudent cuckold obeyed, the promise was fulfilled, and he now administers justice in Westminster-Hall.—If such an opportunity of promotion offers itself to you, be sure you seize it without hesitation.

What I have observed in my advice to the judges, concerning their parliamentary conduct, will suit you.

As to religion, morality, and some other topics, peruse carefully the advice I shall give in my next chapter.

CHAPTER III.

To the Students in general.

WHEN you first come to town, know that it is incumbent on you, from precedent immemorial, to assume the character of a wit, a buck, and a fellow of fire. Don't be in the least diffident of your abilities; for though you be as great a dunce as ever the pedantry of Oxford produced, you may in less than three months gain the various accomplishments requisite to form a true Templar. As to criticism, it is quite enough if you read the new plays and pamphlets, with the observations of the Reviewers' upon them.

If you would be an Aristarchus among your fellow-students, peruse Roscommon's translation of Horace's Art of Poetry, (I suppose you do not understand the original) and some of the Spectators and Adventurers on literary subjects.

Attend the play-houses, and become acquainted with some of the performers. Observe the usual and approved gestures of criticism; such as deep sneers, wise and knowing

knowing shrugs of the shoulder, nods of the head, and many other actions of the like nature, which you may learn by attending to good models, and which you ought to practise every day before a looking-glass.

You may collect from old papers, jest-books, and a common-place book wherein you treasure all the bon mots you hear among your acquaintances, such scraps as will procure you among your female friends the reputation of a wit.

If you desire to be a lady's man, have a child or two sworn against you, and instead of the *bush* money usually given on these occasions, you must bribe some newspaper writer to make your crime public. Direct some women of the town to call frequently at your lodgings; and take great pains to make your landlord and neighbouring friends suppose they are your cousins, &c. This you must do before they hint suspicions, for then *your* anxious apprehensions will put them out of all doubt, if they had previously formed any.

Let an action be brought against you for an assault; and if you can spare the money, suffer it to proceed some length, until your plaintiff shall relent, and receive a recompence for the injuries you have done him. This finesse will give you the reputation of courage. The same thing may be done in various ways.

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Procure

Procure a motion to be made in the court of King's Bench, for an information against you for sending a challenge. Let it be recited in the affidavit, and contain great spirit and elegance. But to prevent expence, let the affidavit be *materially* erroneous: then the court will lament the existence of the error and pass an high censure on your conduct, which circulated among the students, and published in the news-papers, will make you vastly respectable. You may go still farther in this laudable design; as, to fight a duel with some friend, without ball, &c. But if in your eagerness to display your bravery you should ever unfortunately be really called out or obliged to send a *bonâ fide* challenge, you must give an intimation of it to some sister or cousin. I once knew a gentleman in such circumstances say to his servant, 'To-morrow morning, John, I go to Hyde Park to fight a duel. Call me early; but if you mention a word of this to any body, by —— I'll horse-whip you to death.' — John was a wag, and though he perfectly understood the true meaning of his master's threat, he obstinately adhered to the *letter* of it; whereby this man of fire, after vainly looking above an hour for the arrival of the constables, was completely unplumed, and exposed to the contempt of those whom but a short time before his boasting had intimidated.—Do you, however,

ever, take care to have some more faithful servant.

As a fellow of spirit, it will sometimes be proper for you to pass a night in the watch-house, be arraigned before the magistrates, and on the point of being sent to Clerkenwell or Newgate. In order to this you must now and then parade the streets, and knock down some old or infirm person, who can have no redress but by applying to the peace officers.

With respect to your dress you should be very particular, if you mean to be a favourite of the fair. This being a very expensive article in London, you must often exert your ingenuity to obtain it. Let me give you then this serious advice ; never have a long bill with any taylor. If possible keep the demand of each of them below the sum for which you may be arrested, namely 10*l*. Another advantage attends the scheme, that few taylor's will dun you for a trifle. You must therefore employ a score of them at least, if you would have great variety in your wardrobe. And it will be better if they live at a considerable distance from each other, for they might otherwise happen to converse about you, and detect your system.

There is a custom in most of the Inns of Court, that each member gives on his admission a treat to a few of his fellow-

students, called a *recipiatur* dinner. This will cost you, if you do not follow my advice, more than two or three guineas. When you are teized by the servant to appoint a day for this ceremony, put him off as long as you conveniently can; and when he bores you outrageously, give him half a crown or three shillings, which is the whole of his gains on these occasions. If you should be prevailed upon to order the dinner, appear as if you were quite ignorant of the etiquette. Thus your money will be saved, as very little will be ordered by your messmates. When a proposition is made by any of them to drink no more, do you be sure to second it; for it will appear so *highly* ungentlemanlike, that your ignorance and not your frugality will be blamed. When you order a *recipiatur*, you may come into the hall very late, that you may either dine alone, or with a very few persons, so that little wine can be drank.

It is requisite for you to raise your character as a man of knowledge. Whenever you are with strangers, I advise you to be silent, particularly if a legal subject is started. Thus you may conceal your ignorance, and give your companions a veneration for your wisdom and modesty.

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It will often be proper to boast of your ignorance of different arts and sciences, in such a manner as to induce the hearers to think you speak ironically: and if you are even found out, you have only told the truth.

In arguments be preremptory. Enquire what books your antagonist has read, and enumerate many 'till you find one with which he is unacquainted. In *that* book you must assert with boldness, that the question is clearly and completely determined on your side. A very small library will, I dare say, be sufficient for you.

While at breakfast, you may read Harris's List, and the Covent-Garden Magazine. Afterwards a news-paper, &c. And for an evening's amusement, you may sometimes go to a debating society. But never attempt to speak seriously on any question, for in so doing you would exhibit your shallowness. Always be for knocking up a *row*, by ridiculing the debate, abusing the President, and quarreling with the speakers. If you should ever be hardy enough, in spite of nature and common sense, to make an oration, then when the audience begin to hiss you, as they probably will in a very short time, speak as absurdly as you possibly can, so that it may be imagined you had no other design from the beginning than
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to make the debate a scene of confusion. It is easy to console yourself in this case, by recollecting that none but ignorant persons frequent those places, and that they are therefore insensible to your merit.

Now and then you may frequent Westminster Hall for a lounge, when a *crim. con.* is expected; or you may attend the Old Bailey when any one is to be tryed for a rape; but no man of spirit or wit can ever submit to the drudgery of a special pleader's office. I shall hereafter give you many sage instructions, which you may use occasionally.

CHAP.

CHAPTER IV.

*To the Irish Students of the Law in
London.*

RED hot from the University, or the wilds of Connaught, well furnished with a rich brogue, and an ample store of bulls and blunders, I welcome you, my jewel, to the metropolis of the British Empire! After leaving Dublin College, where you have been so long bored with useless languages, and exploded philosophy, you may look on your translation to the Temple as a release from past, instead of an entrance into future studies. You have neither lectures nor examinations now to attend. You have no Academical duty, but to eat your stated number of dinners in the Hall during every term; and I am sure you must have an uncommon temper of mind if you can consider that a hardship.

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It is your own fault, therefore, if you do not make the most of every advantage which a total absence of restraint puts within your power.—You need not then be at the trouble of buying books, for as you do not mean to read, it is better to save so much money, for which you will find many other more urgent uses, Let me desire you to take no pains to alter your accent, and the tone of your words ; for the period of your residence in this country is so short, that all your endeavours to Anglicise your pronunciation will only render you ridiculously affected, You will in fact possess the errors of both English and Irish, without attaining to the harmony of either. There is something natural, and therefore pleasing, in the real unadulterated, virgin brogue ; but in the barbarous trash we frequently hear from your newly-arrived countrymen every thing is forced and disgusting. How often have I heard them say, “ is it *ect* o'clock ? ” (attempting to refine upon the English pronunciation of eight)—“ Do you understand *conveeancing* ? ” (conveyancing.)—“ He is a *greet* man,” &c. &c.—Sometimes they completely *reverse* all the rules of propriety ; thus, “ *Weeter*, why don't you bring me a *pleet* to *ate* my *mate* upon ? ”—“ *Seelars* are seldom sick at *say* ” (sea) ; and so forth. Depend upon it a good fat brogue, added to a little bravado,

vado, and taking often of duels, may enable you to conceal your cowardice, if you should unhappily be subject to that vice (which I acknowledge is seldom found among you), and pass yourself for a Con-naught fire eater.

When you have taken lodgings, be it your first care to kiss the maid and the landlady too.—At all events make some attempts upon their virtue :—this will make them very fond of you, and they will vie with one another in their attentions. Besides, your dame will frequently forbear calling on you when your rent becomes due ; she may even supply you sometimes with cash when you are short ; and I am too well acquainted with the finances of all of you, to be ignorant how agreeably these favours will be received.

Never think of reading law while you remain here. The time is much too short : and recollect that young Barristers are never much employed for the first, second, or third years after they are called, during which time there will be plenty of vacuities that you may dedicate to study.

It is proper for me to be minute in my advice respecting the various methods of *raising the wind* when you are *run a-ground*.

E

Gaming

Gaming is certainly one of the most fashionable modes. You should therefore be expert at billiards, cards and dice.— Learn calculations well : also the art of cogging and loading with dexterity ; how to turn up an ace at Whist ; to inform your partner of your hand, &c. &c.

These are very gentlemanly manœuvres, and they may be put in practice safely, for a slight kicking will be the only consequence of detection.

I shall say nothing of writing for the news-papers or translating for booksellers, as either scheme would be infinitely beneath a man of *your* spirit.

If you are very close run, and the pawnbroker is possessed of all your moveables, order a couple of suits of the most fashionable cut, a pair of boots, or buckles, or any thing else of value, for which your appearance entitles you to obtain credit. Sell them at half-price, or send them to the pawnbroker's to keep company with your watch. All you raise on them will be clear gains, as you never mean to pay any thing to the venders.

If your two years of study are nearly elapsed, you may draw bills of exchange upon yourself, payable when you shall have left England, and give them to some friend, who may discount them, if your
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credit

credit is in a flourishing state, for no more than fifty or sixty per cent. loss.

Should you know any soft good-natured man of fortune, you may sometimes apply to him—but do it in a careless and cavalier manner, as if you hardly wanted the money. Thus, pull out something like a note, feign an immediate and urgent occasion for a few pounds, damn some tradesman to whom you have applied, and who would not give you change; and say, “My boy, have you five or ten guineas about you? let me have ’em, let me have ’em,”—If you ask in a sneaking modest tone, depend upon being refused, for it will be thought you are really in distress. Never have any silver or half-pence about you to pay exceedings at Commons, but borrow from some acquaintance. You need not mind paying, for it will be supposed you have forgotten, and the sum is so small, the lenders will be ashamed to ask you.

An observation correlative to the above must certainly have suggested itself to your mind already; that is, always to have an answer on the tip of your tongue, without the least embarrassment, to all persons asking the loan of your cash; such as, “By Jafus, my dear fellow, I have been short myself for this week past,” &c. or I have no silver, gold, or brass about me.”

I might expend much time and paper in directing you as to fortune-hunting. But the theme is trite. Enough for me to say that you had better attend some of the meeting-houses about London, than any other place of entertainment.—You will find old rich widows turning up their goggling eye-balls to heaven, and imploring the Divine Being to send them husbands. Your brogue will be to these ladies a great recommendation, for the idea of vigour is generally connected with that of the brogue in a man. Whenever religion is introduced, scout it. Deistical principles will give you the appearance of being a Philosopher; and you may learn them though you are the most stupid of dunces.—Retail a few of the sentences and impieties of Gibbon and others (*i. e.* if you have ever read them); smile at the ignorant superstition of mankind; ridicule parsons, churches and publick worship; and believe me that however you may sink in the estimation of some who consider adoration as worthy of a grateful, generous, and enlarged mind, you will be highly thought of by persons of fashion and wit.

You must learn to abuse the characters of the English. Nay, when you dine in Commons, you should not only exclude Englishmen from your mess, but from the same side of the hall you sit in. You ought to look upon them all as a set of
stupid

stupid phlegmatic John Bulls, and not suffer their dull pedantry to break in on your spirited conversations, which should be about the fine women of the town, theatres, boxing-schools, gambling-houses, or any other subject equally fashionable, ornamenting the whole with those elegant expletives, vulgarly called oaths.

To have it thought that you are a man of intrigue, and remarkably gracious with the fair sex, assert confidently, though you have never been admitted into a lady's bed-chamber, that there is not a virtuous female in Great-Britain.

During the time of dinner, you may frequently call with a loud voice, and damn the butlers, or pelt them with pieces of bread, to show your spirit.

Or if an immediate inclination for fighting should seize you, you may quarrel with some of your own countrymen, and have a pleasant scuffle before you leave the hall.

This latter frolic, however, should not be attempted until the benchers retire. If you think proper, you may sit and call for more wine, and drink away for the honour of your country, until you become intoxicated. Every time you empty a bottle, fling it about the hall, to terrify the butlers, and astonish the natives, if any should be there at the time.

The same principle of separating yourself from the society of English students,
should

should make you despise the company of the English in general. Every day, therefore, while you are walking along the Strand, and lounging through the coffee-houses, and every night, while you are at the theatre, or the tavern, you must associate with men of your own country and description only. By this means you will not be corrupted with outlandish customs, you will return to Ireland as you left it, your morals as pure, your habits as free and immaculate as ever.

If your father, or friends, who remit you money, should think you draw on them too often, you ought to invent a list of expences that never existed, and thus you avoid the imputation of extravagance.

When you are going to Ireland, after having kept all your terms, I need hardly tell you to forget paying your debts, and to let your intended departure be secret.

You may go on the outside of a stage-coach, if you have but little money, as is generally the case; and pretend, should any of your friends discover the manner of conveyance you adopt, that all the inside places were taken; or that you are always sick when enclosed in a stage; or, if it be summer, that you wish to have an open and expanded view of the country; or that you are desirous, for the sake of information, and a complete knowledge of mankind, to mix with the vulgar, and observe their manners.

manners. This latter excuse will suit you if you are obliged to take the waggon, or even to travel as a philosopher—on foot.

When any of your acquaintance at the Irish bar attempt to examine your legal capacity, tell them as soon as you can that all your studies have been confined to books of high and original authority; that Coke, Bracton, Littleton, Plowden, &c. are your favourite lawyers, and that you have never condescended to peruse Blackstone's Commentaries, which you consider no better than the primer of a student. As *their* reading extends not beyond the limits of it, you will be safe from their importunity.

CHAPTER V.

Advice to the Attornies.

AFTER you are admitted, your first care must be to look round you, and settle on some method of making the most of your money, and of getting into good business. If you have a few hundred pounds, lend them on mortgage, in separate sums of 50l. or 60l. but insist upon drawing the writings yourself. Charge well for them, and you will make at least 30l. per cent. of your cash, without rendering yourself liable to the penalties imposed by the statute of usury.

If principal and interest be not paid at the appointed day, file a bill directly to foreclose. By this you will either gain possession of the mortgaged premises, which must always be worth above twice the money you advance, or by a smart bill of costs you will acquire something handsome in the way of Trade.

Purchase Promissory Notes, and Bills of Exchange, that have many indorsements upon

upon them, and when they become due send them for payment at an unusual though at a legal hour. If they are returned to you unpaid, as they will probably be, sue out writs against the acceptor and all the indorsers, (by special original, in preference to bill of Middlesex) without further notice ; and if any of them should even pay the Bill, proceed briskly against the remaining defendants for costs. I have known, in my practice, excellent jobs thus made. The generality of persons, not knowing the law upon this subject, will be so much exasperated against you for continuing to sue after your note is discharged, that they will defend the action by way of gratifying revenge, and, perhaps, ruin themselves while they fill your pocket.

Never give your opinion, not even to an old client, without a fee of 6s. 8d.

Several of late, contented with a just equivalent, have given their advice for nothing, to the great detriment of the *Gentlemen* of the law.—Whenever you are going to sue for yourself, be sure your Defendant is worth powder and shot ; but in other cases, it is sufficient if either Plaintiff or Defendant can pay you ; for the former is liable to you when you sue for him if the latter should be insolvent.

Do not be over-cautious to avoid errors in your pleadings, for you can easily get
F leave

leave to amend, upon payment of costs, and by the delay you will have a number of additional attendances to charge to your Client.

Recollect that the first thing for which you should ask those who employ you, if you entertain the most remote doubt of their pecuniary abilities, is money on account—it is best to secure yourself immediately.

Pick up a few terms of law-latin, and display them on all occasions to your suitors, whom you will astonish with your immense learning.

Insinuate yourself into convivial clubs, and when most of the company are drunk set them to fight. This you may easily effect by having another attorney with you, party in your plot. As religion and politicks are the most fruitful subjects of quarrels in common conversation, single out two or three persons of irascible dispositions, who differ greatly upon them, and who are rich enough to answer your purposes: When their spirits are exhilarated with wine, start the favourite subject of dispute. Do you warmly espouse one side, and let your brother lawyer take the opposite.—Having thus drawn your prey within your toils, begin the attack with as much acrimony as possible, that the devoted disputants may follow your example. When either of them has unavoidably

avoidably dropped improper expressions in the course of the altercation, let the other be told that it is incumbent on him to resent the affront: and if he appears timid, rouse his dormant courage with a generous bumper. Thus you may set them by the ears in a very short time; and while their passion and resentment are yet heated, do you inform the person who received the first blow what immense damages he might reasonably expect, if he would give you directions to bring an action for him; and let your partner in the game encourage the defendant to refuse all accommodation, and to oppose the suit with vigour.

That you may make the most of your scheme, you must nurse the cause with great tenderness and care between you, for which purpose study the following rules:—Draw the Declaration of an enormous length, and direct your adverse yet amicable attorney to move the Court to have some of the counts struck out.

Oppose the motion strenuously, whereby attendances, briefs, &c. will be necessarily occasioned. Let all the pleadings be tedious, and in some stage of the proceeding you may amuse yourselves with a demurrer.

When the cause comes before a Jury, take care that some material mistake is committed, for which, upon application

to the Court above, a new trial will be ordered. After that is determined, let the vanquished suitor prosecute a writ of error, and in the mean time his antagonist may bring actions on the judgment as fast as he can. Whe the superiour Court has made a decision, file an Injunction-bill in Chancery to stay execution.

This, you must observe, is dangerous and desperate fighting, so that you ought to be fully assured of the strength of the parties before you engage so sharply. But if you have no fears of their failing, you may acquire, by a single suit, a very handsome competence for life.

When you are asked by any body whether it is adviseable to go to law, always answer in the affirmative, because if you do not, your client will address himself to some other limb of the profession, who will not hesitate to gratify him, considering that he is animated by malice or revenge, and comes for advice already determined how to act. The case is quite different between the Lawyer and the Physician in this particular. The son of Esculapius receives applause for curing a patient, after he has predicted his death; but when the Law Practitioner is mistaken, even fortunately for his clients, he is accused of professional ignorance. When you attempt to dissuade a man from litigation, he will argue thus:

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—"If this Gentleman conducts my suit he will perhaps manage it carelessly, that the event may justify his opinion.—I will therefore employ a man whose character and reputation will interest him in my favour."

You need not attend to the regulation which forbids you to have more than two articulated clerks. Take as many as offer themselves. They will bring you in cash, and perhaps customers, and few of them will know that they are imposed upon; besides, they will receive such excellent lessons while in your office, that they will never flinch at the oath required by Act of Parliament, when they apply to be admitted.

Do not hesitate to ante-date a clerk's articles, if he will give you an adequate consideration. You may even suffer him, if you have not much business, to prowl for himself, or to gain a livelihood by cleaning shoes, picking pockets, or any other occupation for which his talents may be suited.

Insert a multitude of needless covenants to increase your bill in every lease or conveyance which you draw.

Frequent Newgate and the different prisons where you may be introduced amongst unfortunate debtors. Promise solemnly to liberate them if they will employ you. Then scrutinize the proceedings

ceedings of their creditors, and pretend to discover many fatal mistakes in them. In short, work upon their hopes and fears until you are possessed of all their money ; but trouble yourself afterwards no more about their affairs, for you have got as much as you can possibly squeeze from them, and their poverty precludes them from bringing you to an account. If they circulate unpleasant reports of your character, you should laugh at them, as if your innocence caused you to despise their groundless malignity.

Believe me, reader, I know many of our brethren who stain their table-cloths with claret every day from the success of their practice in the above mode.

Whenever you want time for your client to sell his property, run away and defraud his creditors, you may demur, file a sham plea, and get leave to withdraw it, and put in the general issue: or, if you must postpone a trial, bribe somebody to swear that a principal evidence is sick or unavoidably absent, so that you cannot safely proceed—If judgment goes against you, and your friend has considerable property to dispose of, bring a writ of error, which you may hang up for a year or more by proper management. So in ejectment, if the premises are worth the expence of litigation.

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In the prosecution of a suit, if your opponent should offer you a handsome bribe, take it without the least reluctance or mental scruple. Your honour, or perhaps your personal safety, will oblige you to make him a proper return, by mismanagement of your client's business. If ever you are called upon to answer for some practical misdemeanour upon oath, let your conscience be politely obsequious to your professional interest. Plump through every thing without fear. File a volume of affidavits, not less than a hundred sheets, by which you must completely deny the mal-practice with which you are charged. The injured person will be obliged to pay all the costs of his application, and it is your fault if they do not deter him from ever having recourse to a similar remedy again.

Don't be under any apprehensions of a prosecution for perjury, for the expense will prevent the party engaging in it ; and even if he should engage, it will be very difficult for him to convict you.

When any attorney of your acquaintance neglects a proceeding, by which you may sign judgment, or take any other advantage, never be too strict with him, though you are desired to be so by your client ; for this would be un-gentleman-like practice, and you yourself might commit a similar
mistake,

mistake, and be under the necessity of requesting similar indulgence.

If you are in the Agency line, it will be very easy for you to cheat your country employers, who are for the most part more ignorant than yourself. It is needless for me to say much about the methods of trumping up a bill, as they are so well known to every worthy member of the profession. If you walk for a client through a short street, set down four or five shillings for coach-hire.

So if you meet him in the street, and after the usual compliments pass between you, he should say, How goes on our suit? Let this be a six and eight-penny attendance, the same price for reading a letter, and for writing one, *à fortiori*. Lay a profit of 50 per cent. at least upon all the money you expend for clients, whether given to counsel or paid to the revenues. To manage better you must learn to counterfeit the hand-writing of some barrister; his name will be worth many guineas to you, in opinions upon simple cases.

Do not forget to charge enough for coffee-house expenses—*Co. bi.* and *Co. bo.** may serve to pay all the expences of your tea-table.

There

* Coach-hire and Coffee house.

There is only one thing more requisite to crown the education of an attorney ; namely, to act well the hypocrite. You know the wisest men must sometimes conform themselves to the fantastic notions of the multitude : appear therefore to be a miracle of virtue, to feel for the misfortunes and distresses of the poor, and to lament the cruel severities of the law.

Young Practiser, attend to the above excellent rules, and you will one day shine a bright luminary of the law, and emulate the fame and fortunes of my worthy friends, Messrs. Holloway, Sambridge and Priddle. In the course of the next chapter I shall inform you, if you have any curiosity to know, how through the different gradations of chimney-sweep, shoe-black, and pickpocket, I have acquired that great legal experience and knowledge, which these my sage instructions prove that I possess.

CHAPTER VI.

Advice to Attornies' Clerks.

AGREEABLY to the promise which I made in my last letter, I proceed to give you an account of my various and extraordinary adventures in the different situations through which fortune has obliged me to pass.

From what illustrious family I draw my origin, I have never been able to find out. Certain it is, that my parents were persons of distinction; for I have heard that I was brought to the Foundling Hospital in a coach, and ever since have I been abandoned by them to fortune; which circumstance alone would prove that they are above the rank and prejudices of the vulgar.

After starving seven years in the asylum of the unfortunate, owing to the necessity under which our matron laboured of applying part of the money allotted for
our

our maintenance to furnish her own *petits soupers*, I was placed apprentice to a chimney-sweeper in St. Martin's parish. At first I considered my situation altered much for the better; but when I was conducted into the arcana of the business, I lamented my miserable disappointment. It is, however, certain, that I owe much of my present professional renown to the sage lessons of my master. He directed me to steal any portable utensil of value which might lie within my reach in those houses whose chimneys required our scraper; and he would bestow a few pence on me for the stolen goods, and applaud my dexterity. But being once detected in a bold attempt upon a gold watch, like a Spartan boy I was most severely flogged for my unskillfulness, and well nigh smothered in a chimney by my disappointed tyrant.

Taking a mortal dislike to him from this treatment, I ran away to another part of the town, and commenced shoe-black. After some experience in this trade I quickly discovered that picking pockets would afford me a much more comfortable and genteel livelihood; and I accordingly pursued that occupation, till a sentence of two months' hard labour in Bridewell reminded me of the instability of human affairs, and the power of fortune over the greatest men.

During my confinement, I became intimate with an attorney, one of my fellow-sufferers, who explained to me with what security I might plunder in a *legal* manner, compared with that disgraceful mode for which I was deservedly punished. His discourses affected me so much, that as soon as I was liberated, I mustered up three guineas, for which premium I was articulated to him for five years, and received permission to pass the intermediate time agreeably to my pleasure. This I did during a few months as waiter in a Coffee-house; but disdaining the slow acquisitions of ignoble industry, I was caught in the act of selling some stolen plate, regularly convicted and condemned to die. However, the mercy of the Crown enabled me to serve the remainder of my clerkship on board the hulks.

While I was in Newgate I was introduced to the acquaintance of Mr. Barrington. Such kindred spirits could not be long separated; a strong friendship was immediately formed between us; and I strove as much as I could, by using the arguments and exhortations of my Bridewell-preceptor, to wean him from his attachment to *his* profession and to lead him into the mysteries of mine. I offered to sign his indentures, and swear myself, if there was occasion, a regularly admitted attorney at the time they were made.

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But all would not do. “*Non omnibus omnia placent,*” Alexander the Great loved war; Archimedes forgot his appetite when he studied the mathematics; Sophocles could hardly see or hear if a favorite tragedy was unfinished;—and George Barrington was fascinated with picking pockets. Alas! poor George; hadst thou followed my advice, thou wouldst not now have been plowing the Indian Ocean, or wandering on the bleak shores of New Holland.—After my discharge I was taken into an office, through the recommendation of the *gentleman* to whom I was bound, to learn the practice, and acquire a small sum of money, before I began to plunder for myself. Here it was that I became acquainted with several things, which, for your advantage, I shall now communicate.

If you live in your master’s house, by all means attempt to kiss the maid, and, if possible, the mistress too. Believe me, you will be very comfortably situated in consequence of your gallantry. Few women will be displeased with you for assaulting their virtue; but on the contrary they will love you, though they do not comply with your desires, and recommend you to their husbands in such a manner as to serve you and screen themselves.

Whenever

Whenever you are sent about your master's business, you may pass half an hour in some porter-house, or along with your favourite girl, and say when you return that you were unavoidably delayed.

Let all the Clients understand how much it is in your power to accelerate or retard their suits, in order to engage them to make you presents.—If you are smart, you may often deduct something from the money given you for stamps and office fees: for this purpose, take care that when you have any thing to transact at a public office, where an additional charge is made if you are beyond a certain hour, to be there a few minutes before it, so that your master cannot know whether you tell a lie or not, when you assert that you were after the time.

When any one who is not acquainted with your employer, gives you a bond to fill, a lease to draw, &c. say nothing about it, but pocket the entire gains. Recollect that *he* cheats the community, and it is but fair that you should cheat him.

If you cannot raise cash sufficient to answer the customary demands when you mean to be admitted, you must bargain with somebody, to share your first spoils
with

with him, for the loan of as much money as you want ; but do not fail to refuse payment afterwards, if you can support the plea of an usurious contract.

I say nothing here of the methods of getting practice, having so fully discussed them in my advice to the attorneys.

CHAPTER VII.

*To the Benchers and Ancients of the different
Inns of Court.*

DURING Term, while you can dine very well at little expense, I advise you to lay in a stock of food that will keep you alive notwithstanding your avarice and parsimony in the vacations.

When repairs are requisite in your halls, churches, &c. be very sparing of the cash of your Society, for you will thereby have the more to share among yourselves; and let your successors look to the dignity of the law.

To

THOUGH my original design was to give advice to the *Gentlemen* only of the profession, yet I shall not disdain to say a word to you.—Be it your first consideration to fleece the students of their superfluous cash. Never tell them of grand days, or reader's, feasts even when they ask you, because they would swarm to devour your provisions, and thus your friend the cook would be materially injured.

If you have any bad shillings about you, (if you have not, you must buy a good number) give them in change to such of the Students as you think will not inspect them too closely.

But when you owe any Gentlemen half-pence, pretend you can get none, in hopes that you may be desired to keep the change for yourself. If other-
H wife,

wife, go peaceably to dinner, and keep your creditor waiting an hour at least. Should he become extremely urgent for his money, carry him a parcel of Birmingham copper, make many apologies for detaining him so long, and swear that you have been running about the whole time to procure the pence ; but that with all your assiduity you could get none better than those you offer.

Require fees and gratuities, which you must call customary, though they never may have been thought of before.

Make every student, whom you judge from his appearance to be a simpleton, pay for the same Commons twice or thrice. You can only say there is a mistake if he should recollect, and have your former receipt to produce, in bar of your demand.

Never pay much attention to young men who seem to be poor, for you would probably receive nothing for your pains.

Here, Gentlemen, I conclude my admonitions ; and be assured that if you obey them, you will succeed in the profession beyond your most sanguine hopes. Do not profanely suppose that my precepts are the offspring of a wild and creative imagination, but salutary rules,
collected



collected from long observation on the
conduct of those persons who have at-
tained to the first honours and the highest
emoluments of the Law.

T H E E N D.

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collected from long observation on the
conduct of those persons who have as-
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THE END

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